



March 3, 2010

- **Museum Board Member named Honorary Danish Consul**

Lynette Skov Rasmussen, corporate counsel for The Rasmussen Group, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa, and Board Member of The Danish Immigrant Museum, has been appointed Honorary Danish Consul for the state of Iowa by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.



In her role as Honorary Danish Consul, Rasmussen will give consular assistance to individuals, firms and institutions that have dealings with Denmark. She will also issue passports, distribute necessary applications and instructions, certify and verify documents and represent Denmark at official functions.

"I look forward to being able to promote trade and investment between Denmark and the United States. In addition, I am happy to support and foster the Danish-American community and the Danish-American institutions and organizations," she says.

Rasmussen succeeds Lowell B. Kramme of Des Moines, who had held the consul position since 1996. "Lowell has done a wonderful job in his role as the Honorary Danish Consul," Rasmussen says. "I endeavor to follow his example in my dealings with both the Danish and American communities." She began official duties on March 1, 2010.

The United States is Denmark's largest non-European trading partner. Denmark, which is self-sufficient in energy, has as its primary exports industrial machinery, chemical products, furniture, pharmaceuticals and food products. The United States' exports to Denmark include aircraft, computers, machinery and instruments.

A native of Des Moines, Rasmussen is a graduate of Saydel High School. She received her undergraduate degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., and her law degree from Drake University Law School, where she was inducted into the Order of the Coif. She is a member of the board at Prairie Meadows Race Track and Casino, is a member of the City of Johnston Board of Adjustment and is on the board of The Danish Immigrant Museum. The Associated General Contractors of Iowa selected her as its member of the year in 1996.

The new Honorary Danish Consul is married to Kurt Rasmussen, chief executive officer at The Rasmussen Group, a Des Moines-based corporation that specializes in heavy construction, marine contracting and related fields. They have three children: Sanna, 15; Karl, 12; and Maren, 5.

The Consulate of Denmark is located at 5550 N.E. 22nd Street, Des Moines, IA 50313. The Danish Consul can be reached at (515)564-1654 (phone); (515)266-5152 (fax) and at LRasmussen@Rasmussengroup.com.

- **ARTIFACT BACKLOG BROUGHT CURRENT**

Due to a combination of departmental changes and a large number of donations, numerous artifact gifts became backlogged between the years of 1997 and 2003. These donations were issued a receipt containing the donor's name, a list of the artifacts being offered, and some documentary information about that gift. They were then put on a shelf and processed no further.

In the fall of 2005, the museum's newly formed Collections Review Committee began working to resolve this backlog. Since this time, the Committee has evaluated these older gifts as if they were new donations, and accepted those pieces appropriate for the collection.

After four and a half years, we are pleased to announce that the backlog has been completed. Below is a brief outline of the progression of the backlog review process. Total gift lots considered to be part of the backlog: 635

August 2005 – April 2006	Reviewed 115 gift lots from 2003
May – September 2006	Reviewed 66 total gift lots from 2002
October 2006 – October 2007	Reviewed 85 total gift lots from 2001
November 2007 – October 2008	Reviewed 156 total gift lots from 2000
November 2008 – October 2009	Reviewed 157 total gift lots from 1999
November 2009	Reviewed 2 gift lots from 1996
November 2009 – January 2010	Reviewed 44 total gift lots from 1998
February 2010	Reviewed 10 gift lots from 1997

All new donations have remained current and have been fully processed from 2004 on.



Collections Review Committee evaluate final backlog gift; (l-r), Tova Brandt, Curator of Exhibitions, Morten Birkerød Tofte, Danish Intern, Angela Stanford, Curator of Collections, Michele McNabb, FHGC Manager, Jennifer Fair, Collections Intern, and Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director, (absent: Dick Nelson, volunteer)

- **HANDS-ON ART WORKSHOP WITH EVELYN MATTHIES**

Summer is coming and the fish are flying - at least, the fish will be flying on Sunday afternoon, May 30. Evelyn Matthies will lead a workshop to transform plastic bottles and paint into "flying fish," whimsical characters that may be arranged in a mobile or as stand-alone examples. This workshop is open to any interested adults; no experience is necessary.



Workshop fee is \$25 for museum members, \$30 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Tova Brandt at the museum for more information or to register for the workshop.

• **DANISH IMMIGRATION MUSEUM**

Immigrantmuseet (Danish Immigration Museum) is located in Farum, a suburb north of Copenhagen, and is a relevant and modern museum of the history of immigration to Denmark. Danish Immigration Museum is a part of the state authorized Furesø Museums, which also runs local museums, local archives and city archives. Currently, the Danish Immigration Museum is developing a new permanent exhibition opening in 2012. The exhibition will provide visitors with an insight into the people who, in the course of history, have come to Denmark. In the first half of 2010, the existing museum will move to a new central location at Farum Cultural Centre. Their website is quite interesting and has recently been translated into English.

<http://www.danishimmigrationmuseum.com/> . The Denmark based museum's Facebook fan page is called *Immigrantmuseet*, maintained by Freja Gry Børsting (our first intern from Denmark), and it offers information regarding current events, seminars, etc.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is exploring the exciting possibilities achievable by collaborating with Denmark's Danish Immigration Museum.

• **MUSEUM SHOP CONTEST**



New spring items continue to arrive! Great items for bridal showers, weddings, Mother's Day and graduation. **Rosti** kitchen tools in new, fun spring colors, colorful linens from *Ekelund* plus the new spring/summer line of *Dansk Smykkekunst* is on its way from DK! When images become available you will be able to view this beautiful new collection on our website. Joni is looking for a fun catchy title for her corner of this e-newsletter and would love to hear from you as to what she can name this segment. Winner gets a piece of *Dansk Smykkekunst* jewelry!! Email entries to giftshop@danishmuseum.org. Good Luck!

• **GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD ... IN DENMARK!**

This fall FHGC librarian Michele McNabb will be holding several workshops and talks on researching Danish immigrants and the museum's resources in Denmark. These include the following dates and places: September 25: Genealogy Society of Greater Copenhagen workshop; September 28: Folkeuniversitetet, Bornholm; October 4, 1 pm: Aalborg University, History Department; October 5: Slægtshistorisk Forening for Viborg og Omegn, Viborg; October 7, 1:30 pm: Erhvervsarkivet, Århus. Locations and further details will be posted on the museum website under Library & Genealogy / Speaking Engagements, Workshops and Tours.



• **TIVOLI FEST 2010 PHOTO EXHIBIT: "GENERATIONS"**

Do you have a multi-generation photograph with a Danish immigrant? For the 2010 Tivoli Fest photo exhibit the FHGC is looking for 3- 4- or 5-generation photographs that feature a Danish immigrant and would love to include yours. Photographs may be sent by email or regular mail to the Family History & Genealogy Center and should be accompanied by a "Permission to Display form" (available on our webpage under Library & Genealogy/Photo Gallery) along with background information about the immigrant(s) – name(s), birthplace, year of immigration, location in the US or Canada, and the names of other persons in the photograph. Deadline for submissions is May 1st. For further information contact, librarian@danishmuseum.org or call 712.764.7008.



- DANISH CONVERSATIONAL CLASSES**

The Danish Immigrant Museum is offering "Danish Conversational Classes" beginning Tuesday, March 9th at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The classes will run for 8 weeks and will be held in the classroom of the Family History & Genealogy Center, 4210 Main Street, Elk Horn. Class size is limited.

The cost is \$5/session. To reserve your place or for more information, call 712-764-7008 or email genealogy@danishmuseum.org. The class instructor will be Malene Vitus Østergård – one of the museum's two new interns from Denmark. Bring your friends, join the fun, and speak Danish!

Vi ses

Den er mægtig!

Hvordan går det?

- MIDWEST HOSPITALITY IN THE TWIN CITIES**

Rebild National Park Society



The Upper Midwest Chapter hosts the 2010 Annual Rebild Membership Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 21-24. The Upper Midwest Chapter has prepared exciting and enjoyable tours and activities during the Annual Meeting program. The Danish Immigrant Museum looks forward to attending the annual meeting, re-connecting with Rebild

friends and forging new friendships. The Queen's Ball Gala features performing special guest from the Royal Danish Opera, Soprano Anne Kleinstrup. The host hotel is The Marquette Hilton Hotel in the heart of Minneapolis. Please make your hotel reservations early (by March 22nd or sooner) to be guaranteed a reduced room rate. Additional information is available at www.annualrebuildmeeting.com. If you have any questions, please contact Carla Sorensen by email at k-sorensen@msn.com or call 952.472.7930.



- NDPT Coming to USA in October 2010**



The Danish Immigrant Museum becomes a strategic partner with the National Danish Performance Team. John Mark Nielsen, executive director, emphasizes the agreement with the NDPT as an important part of the museum's outreach activities. During the US tour, the museum will participate with both staff and a traveling exhibit. The Danish Immigrant Museum will be the fiscal agent for the NDPT's US tour during their planned 3½ month stay in the states. Continue to

check our website www.DanishMuseum.org or NDPT's website www.ndpt.dk/ for upcoming performance dates and locations near you.